

Today's News - Tuesday, February 14, 2012

- Geiger explains the genesis of an economical yet artful amenity for Orlando's public transit passengers.
- Iovine and Doig mince no words about Republican efforts to gut public transit funding because "transit smacks of the public sector, social engineering and alternative lifestyle" - "so urban planning finds itself on the hit list of un-American activities" (where does that leave all us MetroCard/Oyster card/etc.-carrying "urban elites"?!!?).
- On a brighter note, Bruegmann makes some progress in restoring the reputation of D.C. Metro's designer, Weese: "one of the great, but nearly totally forgotten, masters of modern American architecture."
- Davidson finds MoMA's "Foreclosed" a "small but magnificently ambitious new show...though, a whiff of colonialism blows through the project, with its corps of city-based experts venturing into suburbia."
- Bernstein, on the other hand, left the show "with newfound optimism about what architecture can do" (though 2,500 square feet "is too little for a show this rich. MoMA should consider rehousing 'Rehousing'").
- Kamin x 2: he zooms in on Studio Gang's ideas for Cicero, IL, in "Foreclosed": would it work "in the real world? The point is: Who is this design for?"
- He assesses two Navy Pier proposals that "rise above the rest - one's a Big Move, the other a Creative Tweak" (and both hits and misses among the other designs).
- Lanks on BIG's big win in Park City, Utah, with a "log cabin" arts center that "twists like a Jenga stack" (great presentation of all the contenders).
- Dvir on a new arts center for Ashkelon, Israel, that will have "the aura of an unusual sculpture" meant to create a "lively, festive place," but "this declaration does not exactly correlate with the center's location: far from the downtown area."
- Gray looks into potential plans for Houston's "alabaster beauty" of a 1960s post office (and its 16 acres of prime real estate): preservationists fear ULI's student competition could "encourage razing it and starting with a clean slate" (great Stoller pix!)
- It looks like a long-standing big hole in Boston where a Filene's once stood is about to filled in: "we're going from a train wreck to a celebration in one move."
- Rinaldi spends some time with Christo at meetings where he's denounced as "an enemy of nature"; but "he is more of a businessman. He talks nonstop about the product he is pushing called "Over the River," and he lets you know he can take the heat."
- The 2012 IMCL International Urban Revitalization Award goes to Ecuador's nation-wide program "The Plaza: A Place of Encounter" (great presentation - and much fodder for thought for all socially-conscious "urban elites").
- Jacobs sizes up the T+L Design Awards 2012 (familiar names, but refreshingly not-so-familiar projects).
- Call for entries: HOMEless: waste /price/poverty (winners will be honored and exhibited at the Salone del Mobile in Milan).
- One we couldn't resist: 15 Sublime Pink Buildings - Happy Valentine's Day!

To subscribe to the free daily newsletter [click here](#)

INSIGHT: Bringing Art to the Streets without Breaking the Bank: An architect explains how he used innovative materials and a close-knit alliance of stakeholders to create an economical yet artful amenity for a city's public transit passengers. By Walter Geiger, AIA, FARA- ArchNewsNow

Editorial> Demonizing Smart Growth: Smart growth and TOD...have somehow landed in the soup of anti-government pot-stirrers obsessed with Agenda 21. And so urban planning finds itself on the hit list of un-American activities. As do public private partnerships, public transit funding, and sustainable development...we need to address right now by better clarifying that planning is really about enriching not destroying prospects in America. By Julie V. Iovine- The Architect's Newspaper

The Tea Party's war on mass transit: House Republicans try to gut federal funds for subways as they extend the culture wars to urban policy issues: ...transit smacks of the public sector, social engineering and alternative lifestyle...Defunding transit is how you smack down urbanites, environmentalists, and people of color, all in one fell swoop. By Will Doig [links]- Salon

D.C. Metro Designer Harry Weese Gets His Due: At the National Building Museum, Robert Bruegmann...made some progress in restoring the reputation of one of the great, but nearly totally forgotten, masters of modern American architecture. [images]- The Dirt/American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA)

Can This Suburb Be Saved? At MoMA, curators and architects seek a way out of the cul-de-sac: ...small but magnificently ambitious new show "Foreclosed: Rehousing the American Dream"...For all its thoughtfulness and rigor, though, a whiff of colonialism blows through the project, with its corps of city-based experts venturing into suburbia...You can't wish the 'burbs away, and you can't turn them into imitation cities. By Justin Davidson -- Barry Bergdoll; Reinhold Martin; Andrew Zago; Hilary Sample/Michael Meredith/MOS; Amale Andraos/Dan Wood/WORKac; Jeanne Gang/Studio Gang [images]- New York Magazine

"Foreclosed: Rehousing the American Dream" Reopens the American Dream: New York's Museum of Modern Art proposes five solutions to the disconnect between the housing Americans need and the housing America offers...One leaves the show with newfound optimism about what architecture can do. By Fred A. Bernstein -- Reinhold Martin; Barry Bergdoll; Estudio Teddy Cruz; Amale Andraos/Dan Wood/WORKac; Jeanne Gang/Studio Gang; Michael Meredith/Hilary Sample/MOS Architects; Michael Bell/Eunjeong Song/Visible Weather; Andrew Zago/Zago Architecture [slide show]- Architectural Record

A blueprint for a new American dream; will Jeanne Gang's ideas for Cicero work in the real world? ...her plan will be prominently featured in "Foreclosed: Rehousing the American Dream," that opens Wednesday at New York's Museum of Modern Art and is sure to be provocative...The point is: Who is this design for? By Blair Kamin [images]- Chicago Tribune

Two Navy Pier re-designs rise above the rest - one's a Big Move, the other a Creative Tweak: Taken as a whole, the designs are refreshingly contemporary, junking the tired "festival marketplace" concept... By Blair Kamin -- Davis Brody Bond/Aedas/Martha Schwartz Partners; James Corner Field Operations; Bjarke Ingels Group/BIG/AECOM; melk/HOK/UrbanLab; Xavier Vendrell Studio [images]- Chicago Tribune

BIG's Log Cabin For The 21st Century Twists Like A Jenga Stack: Constructed from reclaimed train piles, the new Kimball Art Center in Park City, Utah, will incorporate the existing museum and nod to the area's mining past. By Belinda Lanks -- Bjarke Ingels Group/BIG; Architectural Nexus; Brooks + Scarpa Architects; Sparano + Mooney Architecture; Will Bruder Partners; Tod Williams Billie Tsien Architects [images, links]- Fast Company

Ashkelon mayor: New arts facility to be 'architectural icon': ...will boast two halls, plus space for music and dance schools...perforated metallic sheeting will lend the building the aura of an unusual sculpture...meant to create a "lively, festive place," but this declaration does not exactly correlate with the center's location: far from the downtown area. By Noam Dvir -- Manuelle Gautrand, Architecte; Batya Swirsky Malul [image]- Ha'aretz (Israel)

Post-office parcel is a gift from our past: There are rumblings that [the "alabaster beauty"] may be sold...Done right...[16-acre] complex could become a major hub of activity - a symbol of sweet progress, at a time when we no longer count on it....ULI Hines Student Urban Design Competition...alarmed Houston preservationists, who worry...organizers seem to encourage razing it and starting with a clean slate. By Lisa Gray -- Wilson, Morris, Crain & Anderson; Fred Buxton (1962); Morris Architects [slide show]- Houston Chronicle

The New Filennium: ...news from Downtown Crossing couldn't be better for Boston. Not only has the long-dormant Filene's

project been reborn, but Millennium Partners and Handel Architects...has a proven track record at precisely this kind of ambitious, complex, mixed-use, elegant district-defining project. We're going from a train wreck to a celebration in one move. - Boston Magazine

Understanding artist Christo's work demands a view with multiple voices: ...sits stone-faced as they call him a liar, a cheater, a con man, a killer, as they politely suggest he is a fool, as they angrily denounce him as an enemy of nature...He is more of a businessman. He talks nonstop about the product he is pushing called "Over the River," and he lets you know he can take the heat. By Ray Mark Rinaldi - Denver Post

2012 IMCL International Urban Revitalization Award will be awarded for Ecuador's nation-wide program "The Plaza: A Place of Encounter", a visionary project to revitalize social life and economic vitality by restoring the country's historic plazas. [link to info, images] - International Making Cities Livable Council

T+L Design Awards 2012. By Karrie Jacobs -- Henning Larsen Architects; Olafur Eliasson; Preston Scott Cohen; Atelier Jean Nouvel; Zaha Hadid; Patrick Jouin & Sanjit Manku; Böge Lindner K2 Architects; Hirsch Bedner Associates; Gehry Partners; Allied Works Architecture; Jorge Gracia; Enrique Concha; Jeremy Barbour/Tacklebox NY [slide show essay] - Travel + Leisure

Call for entries: HOMEless: waste /price/poverty - an opportunity to think about the actual condition of interior and product design; winning projects will be displayed in the Homeless Exhibition at the Salone del Mobile in Milan; deadline: March 1 - Homeless Design (Spain)

15 Sublime Pink Buildings: ...the color pink isn't the first thing that comes to mind when we think of divine architecture, but the psychological properties of the hue actually make it an obvious choice for the built environment. -- HSH architekti; Luis Barragán; Group8; Slade Architecture; Dooa Arquitecturas; Ricardo Legorreta; Julian Schnabel [images] - Flavorwire



Richard Meier & Partners x 2: Villa Gardone, Gardone Riviera, Italy + Mitikah Office Tower, Mexico City

Note: Pages will open in a new browser window.
External news links are not endorsed by ArchNewsNow.com.
Free registration may be required on some sites.
Some pages may expire after a few days.

[Yesterday's News](#)

© 2012 ArchNewsNow.com